

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-07 FEAE-00 DODE-00 ERDA-07

PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 MC-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 /095 W

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R 230215Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8673

UNCLAS TOKYO 5961

FOR OES/APT/SA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EQUIP, TECH, JA

SUBJECT: NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON LARGE COMPUTERS IN JAPAN

1. NEWS STORIES IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE AND VERNACULAR PRESS HAVE ANNOUNCED ENTRY OF TOSHIBA AND NIPPON ELECTRIC INTO LARGE COMPUTER MARKET THROUGH JOINT VENTURE ARRANGED BY MITI AS PART OF COMPUTER INDUSTRY REALIGNMENT.

2. THE TWO COMPANIES DISCLOSED THAT THEY WILL MARKET TWO MODELS UNDER "ACOS SERIES 77" WHICH WILL BE LAST OF SERIES. THEY ARE DESIGNATED "SYSTEM 800" AND "SYSTEM 900". MARKET TARGET IS SET AT 400 CPU'S, WITH DELIVERIES TO START IN JUNE 1977. EACH "SYSTEM" HAS TWO VARIANTS: SYSTEM 800 MODEL 1 (WITH 1 CPU) IS EQUIVALENT TO IBM 370-158; SYSTEM 800 MODEL 2 (WITH 2 CPU'S) AND SYSTEM 900 MODEL 1 (WITH 1 CPU) ARE EQUIVALENT TO IBM 370-168; SYSTEM 900 MODEL 2 (WITH 2 CPU'S) IS EQUIVALENT TO IBM 370-168 APS.

3. LSI MODULE FOR ABOVE SYSTEMS HAS MAXIMUM OF 200 GATES AND POWER CONSUMPTION OF 10 MILLIWATTS PER GATE, COMPARED TO 30 MILLIWATTS IN EXISTING LSI'S OF JAPANESE MANUFACTURE. PHOTO SHOWS EACH LSI PACKAGE TO CONSIST OF 12 LSI MODULES MOUNTED ON BOARD, BUT MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GATES PER PACKAGE IS STATED TO BE 3,500, INDICATING THAT BOARD

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CAN CONTAIN UP TO 18 MODULES. SIZE OF BOARD (PROBABLY LARGEST SIZE) IS SAID TO BE 8 X 8 CM.

4. MAIN MEMORY CAPACITY SAID TO BE FROM 8 MEGABYTES FOR SYSTEM 800 TO 16 MEGABYTES FOR SYSTEM 900. INSTRUCTION RATES AS FOLLOWS, IN MILLION PER SECOND:

SYSTEM 800 MOD 1 -- 2.0 MIPS

SYSTEM 800 MOD 2 -- 3.8

SYSTEM 900 MOD 1 -- 3.4

SYSTEM 900 MOD 2 -- 6.5

DATA TRANSFER RATE FOR SYSTEM 900 MOD 2 REPORTED AS 60 MEGABYTES PER SECOND.

5. RENTAL FEES ALREADY ANNOUNCED, RANGING FROM 16 MILLION YEN PER MONTH (\$5,330/MO.) FOR SYSTEM 800 MOD 1 TO 27 MILLION YEN PER MONTH (\$9,000/MO.) FOR SYSTEM 900 MOD 2.

6. PUBLICITY IN VERNACULAR PRESS POINTS OUT THAT BOTH SYSTEMS WILL OFFER ADVANTAGES OVER IBM'S SO-CALLED FUTURE SYSTEM (FS) IN THAT THERE WILL BE COMPLETE DUPLICATION (REDUNDANCY) OF MAIN COMPONENTS TO ASSURE RELIABILITY; ADOPTION OF FULL-SCALE MULTIPROCESSING OPERATION; AND USE OF A DISPERSED OPERATION MODE.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT IS ATTRACTING ATTENTION BECAUSE MOST PUBLICITY HERETOFORE ON DEVELOPMENT OF LARGE COMPUTERS AND ADVANCED LSI'S HAS CENTERED ON PRODUCTS OF FUJITSU-HITACHI VENTURE. THERE IS THUS THE IMPLICATION THAT MITI'S INFUSION OF FUNDS AND ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE IS BEARING FRUIT IN FORM OF INCREASED COMPETITION AND PROGRESS IN DOMESTIC COMPUTER INDUSTRY.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JOINT VENTURES, COMPUTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TOKYO005961  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760154-1042  
**From:** TOKYO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760427/aaaaawre.tel  
**Line Count:** 92  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION OES  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2005 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON LARGE COMPUTERS IN JAPAN  
**TAGS:** EQUIP, TECH, JA, TOSHIBA, NIPPON ELECTRIC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006